# CITY OFFICIALS MAY BE INDICTED FOR FIRE HORROR

Evidence Prepared for Grand Jury to Show Culpability of Building Department.

MAY REVISE CHARTER.

Coroner's Inquest Brings Out Stories of Locked Door From Survivors.

It is the intention of District-Attorney Whitman and his assistants, Rostwick and Rubin, to have the Grand Jury, which yesterday indicted Max with the power and Mr. Harris opened Rianck and Isaac Harris, proprietors of the Triangle Waist Company, for mansiaughter in being responsible for 146 deaths in the Asch Building fire horror, take up the question of responhorror, take up the question of respon-sibility of officials of the Building Department in not requiring adequate fire escapes on the structure.

Testimony pertaining to the inade-quacy of the one fire escape on the building has already been heard by the Grand Jury, and further testimony will be heard when the investigation is resumed on Monday. It is asserted that indicaments for neglect of duty against certain officials of the Building Department may be filed with Judge O'Sullivan, based on the fact that the necessity for more fire escapes, caused by the construction of adjacent building, had not been observed by those whose duties are laid down by law to look out for such things.

Fixing Official Blame.
Assistant District-Attorney Bostwick. whose labors brought about the indict-ments of Harris and Blanck, has delve ! into the law applicable to the duties of the city officials.

Section 82 of the Labor law provides

that such fire escapes as may be deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Labor shall be provided on the outside of every factory in this State consisting of three or more stories in height.

The testimony adduced before the Grand Jury relative to the violation of the law requiring three stairways in a structure of the size of the Asen Building when it was built shows that, at the request of the architect, the Commissioner of Buildings at that time consented to the creation of only two stairways because a firs escape, which proved so inadequate at the time it was so hadly needed, had been pro-vided for in the interior court of the building.

Commissioner of Buildings Hudolph P. Miller, who was the inspector in charge of the construction of the Alex Building, has told Mr. Bostwick that this was entirely within the discretion of the then Superintendent of Build-logs, as is the placing of fire escapes on the outside of any building.

of Section 419 of the New York City Charter that it will be impossible for the Grand Jury to file indictments that will stand. The Grand Jury, it is assorted, will recommend to Judge O'Sullivan that the legislature be called apon at once to take from the Com-missioner of Buildings the discretionary powers now invested in him in regard to the providing of fire escapes.

Coroner's Jury Still Probes. Hook and Ladder Company No. 20 was the first witness before Coroner Heitzhauser and a jury to-day when the in-quest was resumed. Woll testified that when his company arrived at the building persons were jumping from the eighth, ninth and tenth floors. He couldn't count them, but it seemed nfteen or twenty were in the air at a

Describing the horror further, Woll

"On the ninth floor I saw thirteen bodies in front of the dressing room, against the partitions in two piles On top of the second elevator I saw nineteen bodies. Only three were What was the condition of the doors

on the eighth, ninth and tenth floors when you got there?" Architec; Me-Kim, one of the jurors, asked. "All burned away.

'Burned away."

Charles M. Lauth, of the same company, testified that he removed twelve bodies from in front of the dressing room on the minth floor. At the elevator entrance on the Greene street side he found a pile of bulles five or six feet high. They were heaped against a partition parallel with the elevator doors.

Capt. Howard C. Ruch of High Pres-sure Engine No. 18, told how the jump-

ers came down in groups, breaking the ille nets will the impact.

"Did you examine the house hose" asked Assistant District Atterney

Yes," suswered the fireman. "Tue house hose running from the eighth floor had never be-s used, that on the minth was burned away. When we reached the mints floor, it seemed to me that the whole floor was affame, so much light material was burning." Capt. Rush declared the fire jumped quickly from floor to foor through the holes for steam pipe risers, which were unusually wide and near thinsy materials. In three minutes, he said, the three upper floors were sulate from the flames starting on the sighth floor.

Girl Tells of Death Trap.

whose than a year, restliked that she mover knew there was a door on the Warnington Place side. She tend how sae and another girl had run away from the Greene street stairs because coalie was coming up and went to the show-room. The other girl jumped from the window.

The employees used to go down on the freight elevator on the Greene stree-side, on the stairs, she testified. "Did you know Mr. Alter?" Mr. Buben

tendent eight years.
Jurer Raphael made him admit that
he never had tested the standpipes and

ille and the same thing. I never saw him examine bundles."

Lease Stern of No. 60 East Eighty-leighth street, concentrated on the Asch Building, in answer to questions by Juror Meiklin, said he always found the doors on the eighth, ninth and tenth floors, on the Washingson plans side, unlocked. He went through the building at all hours.

"Why did you go up and down stairs?" I was asked.

"To examine the base and the lights," he answered. "They used to steal globes and home, so we stopped the lights for a time, but turned them on again."

"Wasn't it because the Factory Inspector ordered you, on Peh 25, to have lights on?"

"Yes."
"Fid you go through the building on the day of the Bro?" Juror McKim interrupted.

"No. I don't think so," Etern and opened the door.

"Ild he have a key?" Mr. Rubin asked.

Samuel Recrustein of No. 182 East One Hundred and Seventeenia street, manger of the Triangle Shirt Waist Company, was the next witness. He is related to Mr. Blanck, and is now with the international Shirt Waist Company, under which name Harris and Blanck are doing husaness.

Bernstein floor.

The dur't see any." the girl answered. Samuel Recrustein of No. 182 East One Hundred and Seventeenia street manger of the Triangle Shirt Waist Company, was the next witness. He is related to Mr. Blanck, and is now with the international Shirt Waist Company, was the next witness. He is related to Mr. Blanck, and is now with the international Shirt Waist Company, was the next witness. He is related to Mr. Blanck, and is now with the international Shirt Waist Company, was the next witness. He is related to Mr. Blanck, and is now with the international Shirt Waist Company, was the next witness. He is related to Mr. Blanck, and is now with the international Shirt Waist Company, was the next witness. He is related to Mr. Blanck, and is now with the international Shirt Waist Company, was the next witness. He is related to Mr. Blanck, and is now with the international Shirt Waist Company, was the next witness. He is related to Mr. Blan

Storn could not may whether there at eye been a previous fire in the criticale strops. He had been appering the pink types. The Great Family Liniment

asked. "He used to examine the purses and packages, didn't he?"

"If I had a package I would tell him what was in It. The majority of the spire and saw thirty girls pounding what was in It. The majority of the spire door on girls did the same bandles."

Isaac Stern of No. 40 East Etahry.

Isaac Stern of No. 40 East Etahry.

Chapter of his figures. The keys flways and the Washington Place wall. Juror Ruphael asked if the space wasn't were in their looks and tied to the really about 15 inches. Bernstein was doorknobs, Bernstein said.

Chapter of No. 40 East Etahry.

Chapter of No. 40 East Etahry.

Chapter of No. 40 East Etahry.

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Old Building.

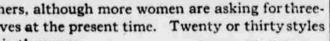
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Basement, Old Building.

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